

Representative Amy Sue Vruwink  
70th Assembly District  
112 North State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Vruwink and members of the Assembly,

I would like to thank Representative Vruwink for proposing this bill and also for voting in favor of it. I would also like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to get this issue addressed. It means a great deal to me, my family, and other graduates of non AVMA accredited veterinary schools.

I am writing to show my favor for Assembly Bill 417. Students who attend Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine and other veterinary schools similar to Ross that are not accredited by the AVMA are faced with much greater examination challenges, not to mention financial challenges, upon applying for a license to practice in the state of Wisconsin. I am one of these graduates. I went to Ross University to fulfill my lifetime goal of becoming a veterinarian. I graduated in January of this year after completing my clinical year at UW Madison along with all the other in state veterinary students. It is my belief that my level of competency is equal to my counterparts who were educated at AVMA accredited veterinary schools. However, due to current Wisconsin requirements for obtaining a veterinary license, I am unable to be licensed. At this time I am not working because the financial and time commitment of the ECFVG is too much. My husband and I have always called Wisconsin home, therefore you can imagine we do not wish to leave the state for me to find employment as a veterinarian. I am eager to begin working, however, every day that goes by past my graduation date makes it more difficult to find employment. Also, my lack of employment is putting much financial strain on my family and I have turned to other non-veterinary related employment opportunities to provide an income. Many states have adopted the PAVE as its form of foreign veterinary graduate testing. I urge you to allow Wisconsin to be one of them and provide veterinarians like me a license upon completion of the PAVE instead of the ECFVG.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Dr. Tina Schwanke

Jim Doyle  
Governor

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
REGULATION & LICENSING

Celia M. Jackson  
Secretary



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September 23, 2009

THE HONORABLE AMY SUE VRUWINK  
CHAIR, ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
ROOM 112 NORTH  
PO BOX 8953  
MADISON WI 53708

**Re:** Assembly Bill 417, regarding requirements for licensure as a veterinarian

Dear Representative Vruwink:

The Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board conducted an analysis of the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education-Equivalence (PAVE) in 2008 along with the program it currently recognizes to credential foreign veterinary school graduates, the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG). They found no significant difference between the two programs. As part of its analysis of the programs, the Board invited presentations from both organizations, which were delivered at the Board's August 6, 2008 meeting. Following the presentations, the Board unanimously passed a motion in favor of recognizing the PAVE program. The Board has since requested that the legislature pass a bill recognizing this second pathway to licensure for foreign trained graduates so that applicants who have elected to credential through PAVE are finally eligible to practice veterinary medicine in Wisconsin.

The Board's motion in favor of recognizing PAVE reflects the Board's belief that PAVE is an adequate measure of applicants' ability to practice competent veterinary medicine in Wisconsin. As you know, access to high quality veterinary care is vital to Wisconsin's agricultural economy. Acceptance of PAVE will improve the quality of and access to veterinary care in Wisconsin. The Department of Regulation and Licensing and the Veterinary Examining Board are in favor of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of Assembly Bill 417.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Celia Jackson".

Celia Jackson  
Secretary

CC: Members, Assembly Agriculture Committee

Hector Colon, Executive Assistant Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing

# Eagle River Animal Hospital

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September 18, 2009

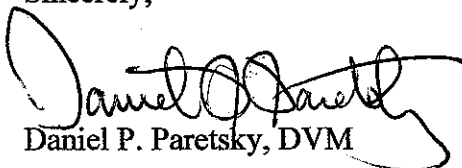
Representative Amy Sue Vruwink  
70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
112 North State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Vruwink:

I am writing to add my support to Assembly Bill 417. I have been waiting for this opportunity since early this year when I became aware of the requirement for ECFVG certification for graduates of foreign veterinary schools. These students fulfill all other requirements for licensure in Wisconsin, including completion of their fourth, or clinical, year of training in an accredited college in this country. I have personally observed the medical and surgical skills of one of these students and found them to be equal if not superior to those of any other veterinary student who has done an externship with me. I have talked to veterinarians at the University of Wisconsin and to others in private practice and they have nothing but praise for the level of training that these students have received.

I therefore urge you to act quickly on passage of this bill that will allow graduates of these foreign schools who have already demonstrated the same level of competency as their U.S. trained contemporaries to become productive members of the veterinary profession.

Sincerely,



Daniel P. Paretsky, DVM